

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:	S. Yoshiura et al.	CONF. NO.:	3184
U.S. SERIAL NO.:	10/052,163	GROUP:	2625
FILED:	January 17, 2002	EXAMINER:	G. Garcia
FOR:	METHOD FOR MANAGING ELECTRONIC APPARATUS, ELECTRONIC APPARATUS, AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR THE SAME		

Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action dated August 21, 2007 of the above-referenced application. Applicants respond to the Office Action as follows.

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 20, 25, and 26 are allowed.

Claims 1-19 and 21-24 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,950,148 to Nakagawa et al. ("Nakagawa"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding the rejection of independent claims 1 and 14 over Nakagawa, the Nakagawa reference does not teach or suggest a method for managing at least one electronic apparatus or an electronic apparatus, respectively, in which verification of identification information of a portable terminal is carried out entirely in the electronic apparatus.

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action of 08/21/2007, it was alleged that the claim limitation "the verifying step is carried out entirely in the electronic apparatus" (claim 1; *see also* claim 14) is disclosed in column 16, lines 1-16 of Nakagawa.

Column 16, lines 1-16 of Nakagawa refers to the "fourth" embodiment depicted in FIGS. 13 and 14 of Nakagawa, where FIG. 13 is a flowchart showing a processing procedure for performing maintenance on a copying machine 1 (see column 15, lines 46-48).

First, at step c1, an operator refers to maintenance data of each copying machine 1 "to specify the copying machine 1 which requires a regular maintenance" (column 15, lines 52-56). As stated in column 15, line 57, a check code is "attached to each of the copying machines 1." At step c2, the operator inputs the check code into a portable terminal device 30 (see column 15, lines 58-60; and FIG. 13). At step c3, the operator connects the portable terminal device 30 to the copying machine 1 (see column 15, lines 60-63). Then, the copying machine 1 to which the portable terminal device 30 is connected transmits to the host computer 40 the identification data, i.e., the check code for the copying machine 1 (see column 15, lines 63-67). Subsequently, the host computer 40 "judges whether the read check code agrees with the check code specified by the identification data" (column 16, lines 3-6). If the check codes match, a maintenance operation is permitted on the copying machine 1 (see column 16, lines 6-10).

As described in column 16, lines 1-6, steps c5 and c6 of the processing procedure involve verification of the check code, and these steps are performed in the host computer 40, not in the copying machine 1 of Nakagawa.

In other words, verification or comparison of check codes does not occur in the copying machine 1 of Nakagawa, but instead occurs in the host computer 40, as clearly stated in column 16, lines 1-6.

Therefore, Nakagawa does not teach or suggest a method for managing at least one electronic apparatus in which "the verifying step is carried out entirely in the electronic apparatus" as recited in independent claim 1.

Similarly, Nakagawa does not teach or suggest an electronic apparatus in which "verification of the identification information of the portable terminal is carried out entirely in the electronic apparatus" as recited in independent claim 14.

For at least the reasons discussed above, the Nakagawa reference does not anticipate or otherwise render obvious the Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 14 and their respective dependent claims are allowable over Nakagawa.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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